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Agenda item 115 (h)
Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/141, decided to create the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Assembly also decided that the High Commissioner for Human Rights should:

(a) Be a person of high moral standing and personal integrity and should possess expertise, including in the field of human rights, and the general knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures necessary for impartial, objective, non-selective and effective performance of the duties of the High Commissioner;

(b) Be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and approved by the General Assembly, with due regard to geographical rotation, and have a fixed term of four years with a possibility of one renewal for another fixed term of four years;

(c) Be of the rank of Under-Secretary-General.

2. On 28 July 2008, the General Assembly, in its decision 62/420, approved the proposal of the Secretary-General that Navanethem Pillay (South Africa) be appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a fixed term of four years. Ms. Pillay's term of office will expire on 31 August 2012.

3. In the light of the provisions of resolution 48/141, the Secretary-General proposes to extend the appointment of Ms. Pillay as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a period of two years, beginning on 1 September 2012, and expiring on 31 August 2014.

4. The Secretary-General trusts that the General Assembly will approve this extension.

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Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Letter dated 11 May 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I refer to the letter of the Permanent Representative of Syria to the United Nations, dated 10 May 2012, which contains unfounded allegations about the seizure of the cargo ship *Lutfullah II* by the Lebanese naval forces.

As is well known, the Sierra Leone-registered *Lutfullah II* was intercepted on 27 April 2012 by the Lebanese navy, on route to the Port of Tripoli (Lebanon). The last port of call of *Lutfullah II* was Port Alexandria (Egypt). The ship neither docked at any Turkish port nor has any affiliation with Turkey in terms of its registration or operator.

Regardless of these facts, the above-mentioned letter accuses Turkey of cooperating with Libya and other States to send weapons into Syria.

Turkey strongly rejects the unfounded allegations mentioned in the said letter. Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to register our firm position regarding this matter.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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